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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO.
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09/052,855 03/31/98 BILLING-MEDICAL

6064-UC-F1
EXAMINER

PM21/0904

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ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER
1642

DATE MAILED:

09/04/98

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/23/98

☐ This action is FINAL.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 30 days month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
☒ Claim(s) 1-32 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.
☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892
☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) _____
☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES--

Please Note: In an effort to enhance communication with our customers and reduce processing time, Group 1640 is running a Fax Response Pilot for Written Restriction Requirements. A dedicated Fax machine is in place to receive your responses. The Fax number is 703-305-3704. A Fax cover sheet is attached to this Office Action for your convenience. We encourage your participation in this Pilot program. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Donald E. Adams, Ph.D., Supervisory Patent Examiner at Donald.Adams@uspto.gov or 703-308-0570. Thank you in advance for allowing us to enhance our customer service. Please limit the use of this dedicated Fax number to responses to Written Restrictions.

1. With the receipt of disc containing sequences in computer readable form (CRF) the instant application is now in full compliance with the Sequence Rules.

Election/Restriction

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-9, drawn to a hybridization based method of detection, classified in class 435, subclass 6.
 - II. Claims 10-16, 25, 30, 35 and 38-39, drawn to a polynucleotide sequence, assay kits comprising said polynucleotide, expression vectors and host cells comprising said polynucleotide sequence and the expression of said polynucleotide sequence via recombinant methods, classified for example, in classes 536 and 435, subclasses 23.51, (320.1, 252.3 and 69.6), respectively.
 - III. Claims 17-19, 21-22, 34 and 36, drawn to polypeptides and assay kits comprising said polypeptides, classified in class 530, subclass 350.
 - IV. Claims 20, 23-24 and 37, drawn to antibodies and assay kits containing said antibodies, classified in class 350, subclass 387.1.
 - V. Claims 26-27, drawn to a method for detecting a protein comprising contacting a sample with an antibody, classified in class 435, subclass 7.1.
 - VI. Claims 28-29, drawn to a method of detecting an antibody comprising contacting a sample with a polypeptide, classified in class 435, subclass 7.1.

- VII. Claim 31, drawn to a method for producing antibodies comprising administering a polypeptide, classified in class 424, subclass 184.1.
- VIII. Claim 32, drawn to a method for producing antibodies comprising administering DNA plasmid, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions of Groups II-IV are structurally and functionally different products which are made by different methods and have different uses. The examination of all groups would require different searches in the U.S. Patent Shoes and the scientific literature and would require the consideration of different patentability issues.

The methods of Groups I, V-VIII differ in the method objectives, method steps and parameters and in the reagents used.

The inventions of Group II and each of Groups VIII and I are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the polynucleotides of Group II can be used in each of the two methods of Group I and VIII.

The inventions of Group III and each of Groups VI and VIII are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the polypeptide of Group III can be used in each of the two methods of Group VI and VIII.

The inventions of Group IV and V are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that

product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the antibodies of Group IV can also be used in passive immunotherapy methods.

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification and recognized divergent subject matter and because the searches required for the groups are not co-extensive, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CAR 1.143).

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CAR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CAR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CAR 1.17(I).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nancy Johnson whose telephone number is (703) 305-5860.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy A. Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nancy A. Johnson, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1642
August 31, 1998



RESTRICTION ELECTION FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

DATE:

FROM/ATTORNEY:

FIRM:

PAGES, INCLUDING COVERSHEET:

PHONE NUMBER:

TO EXAMINER: Nancy A. Johnson, Ph.D.

ART UNIT: 1642

SERIAL NUMBER:

FAX/TELECOPIER NUMBER: (703) 305-3704

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS FACSIMILE NUMBER IS TO BE USED ONLY
FOR RESPONSES TO RESTRICTIONS.**

COMMENTS: _____

IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED ALL THE PAGES OF THIS TRANSMISSION, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER LISTED ABOVE.

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